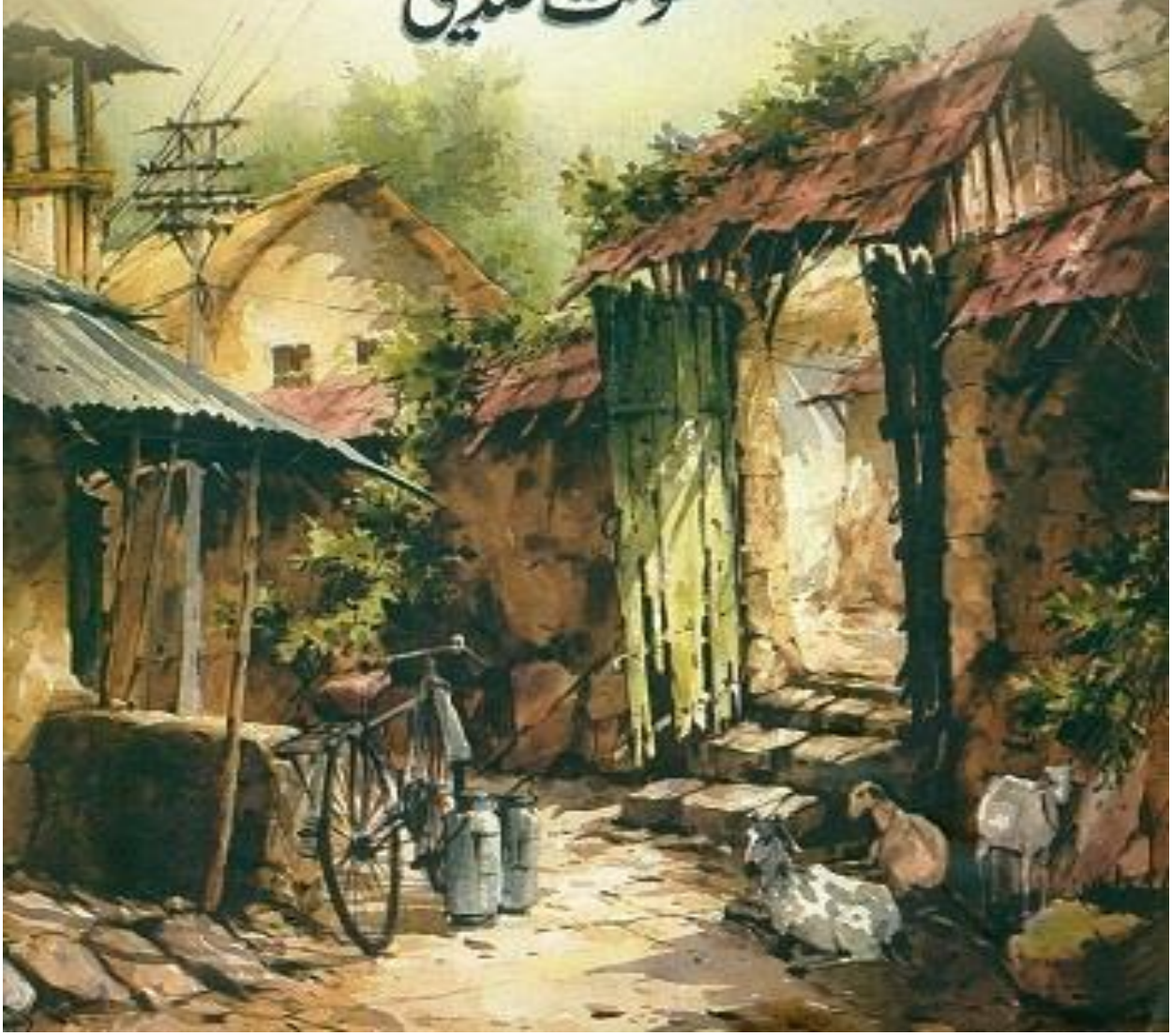
خدا کی بستی

شوکت صدیقی



"Khuda Ki Basti" By Shaukat Siddique

Summary In English – Translated By: Manzoor Akhund

This story revolves around people living below the poverty line, where even the basic necessities of life are not available. The main character is "**NOUSHA**", accompanied by his two friends, **RAJA** and **SHAMI.**

Raja is a beggar, while **Shami** is the son of a small shopkeeper. **Nousha** is an orphan boy whose mother became a widow at the age of 38. Her helpless children include **Nousha**, **Anu**, and **Sultana**.

Nousha and Raja share a strong friendship, and **Shami** occasionally joins them, although he is very afraid of his tyrant father.

In the same neighborhood lives a 35-year-old scrap dealer named **NIAZ**. He sells both new and old items, but behind this facade, he deals in stolen goods. **Nousha** works at a workshop for a brutal mechanic named **ABDULLAH** Mistry. Influenced by **Niaz, Nousha** frequently steals parts from the workshop and earns a reward of one and a half rupees in exchange. He spends this money to watch movies all night with **Raja**, the beggar, and returns home in the morning feeling like a prince.

Niaz is the son-in-law of **Nousha**'s uncle. Although **Nousha**'s cousin, who was married to **Niaz**, has passed away, **Niaz** has not severed ties with the family. He rents them a house for Ten (10) rupees a month, but they often fail to pay the full rent, causing their debt to accumulate.

Over time, **Sultana, Nousha's** sister, has grown into a young beautiful girl, and **Niaz** has started eyeing her with bad intentions. Because of this, he has stopped frequently demanding rent from them. Instead, he stays at their house late into the night, conversing with **Sultana**'s mother.

One day, **Nousha** stole a valuable motorcycle part for **Niaz**, who rewarded him with Ten rupees. **Nousha** used this money to experience cheap liquor for the first time with **Raja**. Intoxicated, he wandered the streets alone, vomiting and stumbling. Suddenly, a car hit him, causing a severe head injury. The car's occupants fled, and a boy named **Salman** brought **Nousha** home. **Salman** was also captivated by **Sultana**'s beauty.

Salman was a village boy who had come to the city and quickly adopted its vices. Unlike ordinary students, he indulged in all sorts of immoral activities within a few months, something most men would do by the age of 55. However, indulging in such activities required money, which he initially received from home via money orders. When his academic performance deteriorated, his financial support from home ceased. He sold all his valuable belongings to **Niaz**, the scrap dealer, and, with no money left, often visited **Sultana**'s house to have meals there.

Nousha was caught stealing copper wire one day, and the brutal mechanic gave him such a severe punishment that he was bedridden for weeks. **Raja**, who begged alongside a leper beggar, was taken by the police. **Shami** was beaten mercilessly by his father for stealing five rupees.

The three friends, now unemployed and desperate, decided to go to Karachi. On the way, **Shami** began crying and returned home. Raja and Nousha fell into the hands of a notorious dacoit named **SHAH JI**, who made them work as household servants and conduct robberies. During a robbery at an Engineer's house, **Raja** grew fond of the family and later betrayed Shah Ji by informing the police. **Raja and Nousha** were sentenced to one year in jail each, while **Shah Ji** and his gang received four-year sentences.

Meanwhile, **Niaz** proposed marriage to **Nousha**'s mother, hoping to get closer to **Sultana**. Knowing Niaz's Evil intentions, **Nousha**'s mother suggested that **Salman** marry **Sultana. Salman** promised to come one night but never showed up, leaving her waiting all night.

Niaz, with the help of a man named **KALE KHAN**, arranged for an insurance policy on **Nousha**'s mother. After marrying her, **Niaz** used **Dr. Moto** to administer injections that gradually weakened her heart, eventually causing her death. **Niaz** used the insurance money to buy a luxurious bungalow and expanded his business from a scrap dealer to an import-export entrepreneur.

Now, **Sultana** and **Anu** were under his control. To gain complete access to **Sultana, Niaz** needed to eliminate Anu. He regularly beat **Anu** so severely that one day Anu ran away from home. **Niaz** then had **Sultana** entirely to himself and began a relationship with her without marrying her.

A few days before **Nousha**'s mother's death, **Salman** meets **Sultana**. She is cold towards him, and he explains his dire situation that “he has no place

to live and nothing to eat”. Despite his plight, **Sultana** tells him not to come back, saying that **Niaz** is now like a father to her and would be very angry. Hearing **Niaz**'s name, Salman leaves hastily.

Salman's circumstances worsen significantly. During this period, he meets a pragmatic professor named **Ali Ahmed**, who introduces him to the "Falak Pia" organization. The members of Falak Pia, known as Skylarks, work for the welfare of people living below the poverty line. Salman eagerly joins this cause, receiving food, clothing, and shelter in return. The driving force behind Falak Pia is **Safdar Bashir**, with **Ali Ahmed** being a significant figure after him. Falak Pia rises to great heights but is eventually forced to enter politics, which leads to considerable setbacks. The organization nearly collapses after **Safdar Bashir**'s departure, but **Ali Ahmed**, with limited resources and members, manages to revive it.

Salman returns to his village and marries a virtuous, wealthy woman. His in-laws secure him a prestigious job in Karachi, and he is quite happy for a while. However, he develops a close relationship with his boss, who initially has a secret affair with **Salman**'s wife and later becomes openly involved with her. Initially, **Salman** feels helpless and does not confront his boss or his wife, but eventually, he curses both of them and returns to Falak Pia.

In jail, **Raja** and **Nousha** cannot stay together for long and eventually get separated. In jail one boy name **POKER** become **Nousha**’s friend. Both are released from jail on the same day, and **Poker** introduces **Nousha** to his mentor, **PEDRO**, who teaches them how to steal and pickpocket. Nousha quickly becomes proficient at this but is required to give a significant portion of his loot to **Pedro**. Nousha excels in this line of work but resents giving a share to **Pedro**. When he tries to hide the money, he faces punishment and is expelled from **Pedro’**s gang.

Nousha wanders aimlessly until he meets a professor who takes him home. The professor has a young daughter, **NADRA**. **Nousha** never looks at her with ill intentions. He does small tasks for the family in exchange for food, clothing, and shelter, and he is happy as the professor also teaches him. During this time, he encounters **Raja**, who has been released from jail with a disease that causes his leg to rot, and he now begs for a living. Seeing **Raja**'s condition, **Nousha** is moved to tears.

One night, **Nadra** tries to seduce **Nousha**, but the professor catches them and expels Nousha from the house. **Nousha** returns to **Raja**, who is now living on the streets with a mangy dog. **Nousha** asks **Raja** to come back home with him, but **Raja**, crying, hands him a knife and says

"Take this knife."

Nousha: "But I don't carry a knife anymore."

Raja, tearfully: "Keep it as a memory of me."

After being given a knife by **Raja** as a keepsake, **Nousha** leaves and reached his village where he encounters **Shami**, now a rickshaw driver, at the city's station. Through **Shami, Nousha** learns about his mother's death and **Niaz**'s atrocities. That same night, **Nousha** uses the knife given by **Raja** to brutally kill **Niaz**, cutting him into pieces, and then surrenders to the police.

It is revealed that **Sultana** has an illegitimate child with **Niaz**. Since they were never married, **KHAN BAHADUR**, **Niaz**'s business associate, uses unscrupulous methods to claim **Niaz**'s property. Initially, **Sultana** resists but eventually leaves everything and moves with her son to cook’s house name **NATHU**, seeking peace but finding none.

Soon, **Sultana** gets a job at an embroidery institute run by the Falak Pia organization, now headed by **ALI AHMED**.

Ali Ahmed and Sultana develop a relationship, and they get married, with Ali Ahmed accepting **Sultana**'s illegitimate child as his own. One evening, **Salman** arrives at the institute and feels immense jealousy seeing **Ali Ahmed** and **Sultana**'s happy life together.

Nousha, with all evidence and witnesses against him, is sentenced to death.